

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4-11 are pending in the application. By this amendment, claim 3 has been canceled, claims 2 and 9 have been amended to more clearly define the invention, and new claims 10 and 11 have been added. The present application as originally filed supports these amendments. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections

Claims 2-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Particularly, the Examiner pointed out that, in claim 2, “the first lens material” and “the second lens material” lack antecedent bases, and, in claim 9, “the lens material” is not clear.

By this amendment, the applicant has amended claims 2 and 9. The applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims meet the requirement of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and the rejections should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 2-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,315,410 to Doshi. Issue is taken with that position.

Claims 2 and 9 are independent claims in the application, and the other claims depend from claim 2. By this amendment, the applicant has amended claims 2 and 9 to more clearly define the invention. The amended claim 2 requires that a lower lens body be cut at its upper surface to form a centrally located optical portion and an annular cut portion for printing colors thereon, where the optical portion extends above an upper surface of the cut portion of the lower lens body. The amendment is supported by the application as originally filed. For example, FIGS. 4C and 4D clearly show that the optical portion 64 extends above the curved upper surface of the annular cut portion of the lens. In contrast, Doshi patent does not define an optical portion disposed within an annular cut portion on the lens. Furthermore, as shown in 2B in FIG. 5, the lens body in Doshi has a middle portion at the upper surface, but the middle portion of lens does not extend above the entire upper surface of the lens body. Accordingly, the method of manufacturing a contact lens of Doshi could not possibly be the same as that defined in claim 2. Moreover, it is this characteristic of applicant's lens that permits manufacture of a high optical

quality lens with a well defined "iris-like" peripheral region. For these reasons, claim 2 should be considered patentable over the cited reference.

Claims 4-8 and new claim 10 depend from claim 2 and provide narrower limitations to claim 2. Therefore, claims 4-8 and 10 also should be considered patentable over the cited reference.

The amended claim 9 requires that the molds be made of a material selected from the group consisting of polycarbonate, polybutyleneterephthalate and a mixture thereof. Doshi does not disclose a mold made of a material selected from polycarbonate, polybutyleneterephthalate, or a mixture thereof for molding the lens. Therefore, the independent claim 9 should be patentable over Doshi. The new dependent claim 11 depends from 9, and therefore, also should be considered patentable over Doshi.

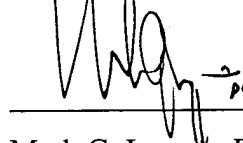
Conclusion

Applicants, accordingly, respectfully submit that in view of the preceding amendments and arguments, claims 2, 4-11 are patentable over the cited references, whether considered alone or in combination, and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). If a telephone conference will expedite prosecution of the application the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

No additional costs are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this paper. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-1133.

Respectfully submitted,

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